

Virginia Administrative Code

CHAPTER 30

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LICENSURE OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Part I

General Provisions

18VAC90-30-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Approved program" means a nurse practitioner education program that is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs/Schools, American College of Nurse Midwives, ~~American Association of Colleges of Nursing~~ Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or is offered by a school of nursing or jointly offered by a school of medicine and a school of nursing which grant a ~~master's~~ graduate degree in nursing and which hold a national accreditation acceptable to the board.

"Boards" means the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Virginia Board of Medicine.

"Collaboration" means the process by which a nurse practitioner, in association with a physician, delivers health care services within the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner's professional education and experience and with medical direction and supervision, consistent with this chapter.

"Committee" means the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

"Controlling institution" means the college or university offering a nurse practitioner education program.

"Licensed nurse practitioner" means a registered nurse who has met the requirements for licensure as stated in Part II (18VAC90-30-60 et seq.) of this chapter.

"Licensed physician" means a person licensed by the Board of Medicine to practice medicine or osteopathy.

"Medical direction and supervision" means participation in the development of a written protocol including provision for periodic review and revision; development of guidelines for availability and ongoing communications which provide for and define consultation among the collaborating parties and the patient; and periodic joint evaluation of services provided, e.g., chart review, and review of patient care outcomes. Guidelines for availability shall address at a minimum the availability of the collaborating physician proportionate to such factors as practice setting, acuity, and geography.

"National certifying body" means a national organization that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education or deemed acceptable by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and has as one of its purposes the certification of nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives or nurse practitioners, referred to in this chapter as professional certification, and whose certification of such persons by examination is accepted by the committee.

"Preceptor" means a physician or a licensed nurse practitioner who supervises and evaluates the nurse practitioner student.

"Protocol" means a written statement, jointly developed by the collaborating physician(s) and the licensed nurse practitioner(s), that directs and describes the procedures to be followed and the delegated medical acts appropriate to the specialty practice area to be performed by the licensed nurse practitioner(s) in the care and management of patients.

Part II Licensure

18VAC90-30-60. Licensure, general.

A. No person shall perform services as a nurse practitioner in the Commonwealth of Virginia except as prescribed in this chapter and when licensed by the Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

B. The boards shall license applicants who meet the qualifications for licensure as set forth in 18VAC90-30-80 or 18VAC90-30-85.

18VAC90-30-70. Categories of licensed nurse practitioners.

A. The boards shall license nurse practitioners consistent with their specialty education and certification in the following categories (a two-digit suffix appears on licenses to designate category):

1. Adult nurse practitioner (01);
2. Family nurse practitioner (02);
3. Pediatric nurse practitioner (03);
- ~~4. Family planning nurse practitioner (04);~~
- ~~5. Obstetric/gynecologic nurse practitioner (05);~~
- ~~6. Emergency nurse practitioner (06);~~
- ~~7~~ 4. Geriatric nurse practitioner (07);

~~8~~ 5. Certified registered nurse anesthetist (08);

~~9~~ 6. Certified nurse midwife (09);

~~10~~. School nurse practitioner (10);

~~11~~. Medical nurse practitioner (11);

~~12~~. Maternal-child health nurse practitioner (12);

~~13~~ 7. Neonatal nurse practitioner (13);

~~14~~ 8. Women's health nurse practitioner (14);

~~15~~ 9. Acute care nurse practitioner (16); and

~~16~~ 10. Psychiatric nurse practitioner (17).

B. Other categories of licensed nurse practitioners shall be licensed if the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine determines that the category meets the requirements of this chapter.

C. Nurse practitioners licensed prior to (effective date of regulations) may retain the specialty category in which they were initially licensed, or if the specialty category has been subsequently deleted and if qualified by certification, be re-issued a license in a specialty category consistent with such certification.

18VAC90-30-80. Qualifications for initial licensure.

A. An applicant for initial licensure as a nurse practitioner shall:

1. Be currently licensed as a registered nurse in Virginia;
2. Submit evidence of ~~completion~~ of a graduate degree in nursing from an educational program designed to prepare nurse practitioners that is an approved program as defined in 18VAC90-30-10;
3. Submit evidence of professional certification that is consistent with the specialty area of the applicant's educational preparation issued by an agency accepted by the boards as identified in 18VAC90-30-90 ~~as an agency accepted by the boards~~;
4. File the required application; and
5. Pay the application fee prescribed in 18VAC90-30-50.

B. Provisional licensure may be granted to an applicant who satisfies all requirements of this section with the exception of subdivision A 3 of this section only until the release of the results of the first national certifying examination for which he is eligible following his application.

18VAC90-30-85. Qualifications for licensure by endorsement.

An applicant for licensure by endorsement as a nurse practitioner shall:

1. Provide verification of licensure as a nurse practitioner or advanced practice nurse in another U.S. jurisdiction with a license in good standing, or, if lapsed, eligible for reinstatement;
2. Submit evidence of professional certification that is consistent with the specialty area of the applicant's educational preparation issued by an agency accepted by the boards as identified in 18VAC90-30-90; and
3. Submit the required application and fee as prescribed in 18VAC90-30-50.

18VAC90-30-90. Certifying agencies.

A. The boards shall accept the professional certification by examination of the following:

1. American College of Nurse Midwives Certification Council;
2. American Nurses' Credentialing Center;
3. Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists;
- ~~4. National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses~~ Pediatric Nursing Certification Board;
5. National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties; and
6. American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

B. The boards may accept professional certification from other certifying agencies on recommendation of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine provided the agency meets the definition of a national certifying body set forth in 18VAC90-30-10 and that the professional certification is awarded on the basis of:

1. Completion of an approved educational program as defined in 18VAC90-30-10; and
2. Achievement of a passing score on an examination.